



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Dec. 15, 2011

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### FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL TAPS THOMAS TO LEAD LOCAL TROOP OPERATIONS

*~ Thomas to take command in Troop C ~*

**TAMPA, Fla.** – Florida Highway Patrol Director, Col. David Brierton, promoted Michael Thomas to major and assigned him to lead field operations in the Tampa Bay area, effective Dec. 16. Troop C comprises seven counties, including Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Pasco, Hernando, Sumter and Citrus.

“Throughout his career, Major Thomas has served the residents and visitors of our state with great dedication and exhibited excellent leadership capabilities,” Brierton said. “I have full confidence in his abilities to lead the troop that enforces the laws related to highway safety and security in the Tampa Bay area.”

Thomas began his FHP career in 1987 as a member of the 79<sup>th</sup> recruit class. He has served in Broward County as a K-9 officer, in Marion County as a district lieutenant and in his current assignment as district captain in Orange and Osceola counties.

Thomas is a U.S. Navy veteran and holds a bachelor’s degree in public administration from Barry University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He is also a recent graduate of the Leadership in Police Organizations Program, which the U.S. Military Academy and the International Association of Chiefs of Police developed.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit [www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov) or follow us on Twitter @[FDHSMV](https://twitter.com/FDHSMV). You can find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FDHSMV), too.

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